

How to File A Complaint Against A Judge

These are the instructions for filing a complaint against a judge with the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission. If you need more forms, you can copy the attached pages or call us at the number shown below.

1. You may use this form to file an official complaint against a judge. Complete the form by typing or printing all the information requested. Use separate forms if you want to file complaints against more than one judge.
2. Make sure you include a daytime telephone number or some other number where we can reach you to discuss your complaint. If your complaint arises out of a lawsuit, you must provide your case number and the names of the attorneys who participated in the case.
3. Please make sure that the complaint form is complete and accurate. You may use a separate letter or the statement of facts section to explain in your own words the circumstances that led to your complaint. Be as specific as possible in describing names, places, dates, and witnesses to the actions of the judge. List all the relevant events in chronological order. Use additional sheets, if necessary, and attach copies of any documents that support your statement. If you wish to include court documents, please do not send the originals.
4. Sign the complaint in the space provided. However, complaints may be anonymous. Make a copy of the complaint for your records.
5. Mail or fax the original complaint and the statement of facts to the Commission at the following address:

Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission
323 Center Street Suite 1060
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 682-1050 Fax (501) 682-1049

A complaint form may also be sent by e-mail to jddc@mail.state.ar.us.

The Commission does not accept complaints by telephone.

COMMISSION RECORDS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

By Arkansas Supreme Court rule and A.C.A. ' 16-10-404, except for final actions taken by the Commission or if the Commission finds there is probable cause requiring a formal disciplinary proceeding, all records, files, reports, and proceedings before this Commission are confidential. This confidentiality includes information written, recorded, or orally received or developed during the course of a Commission investigation. Under this rule, any information contained in this letter or received from you is to be strictly confidential. Any person who obtains any information about the Commission's work and violates this confidentiality requirement is subject to punishment for contempt of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Contact the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission at (501) 682-1050
E-Mail: jddc@mail.state.ar.us

Arkansas Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission
Tower Building - Suite # 1060 - 323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 682-1050
FAX: (501) 682-1049

COMPLAINT

I hereby request an investigation of _____ of the _____
(judge's name)

Court in _____, _____ Arkansas.
(city)(county)

On information and belief, I state that the above-named judge: (check all appropriate items)

- _____ *1. Has engaged in unethical and improper conduct as a judge.*
- _____ *a. Partiality, bias, or prejudice (against an individual or group)*
- _____ *b. Ex-parte (one-sided) communication with one or some, but not all parties or attorneys*
- _____ *c. Conflict of interest / failure to disqualify*
- _____ *2. Has willfully or persistently failed to perform an official duty by;*
- _____ *a. Delay (includes delay in setting a matter for hearing or deciding a case)*
- _____ *b. Injudicious temperament (includes failure to be patient, dignified, and courteous or by exhibiting rude or intimidating conduct)*
- _____ *c. Abuse of judicial power (includes a knowing or persistent disregard of clear law or fundamental rights)*
- _____ *d. Legal error / improper procedure (includes dissatisfaction with court procedures or rulings on evidence, criminal sentences, custody, etc..)*
- _____ *e. Failure to perform duties of office*
- _____ *f. Procedural or administrative irregularity*
- _____ *3. Has engaged in gross personal misconduct. Misconduct (off the bench) (includes prohibited charitable, business, personal, political or criminal conduct)*
- _____ *4. Has used intoxicating beverages or dangerous drugs in such a way as to interfere with the proper performance of official duties.*
- _____ *5. Has a Physical or mental disability that impairs the proper performance of official duties.*
- _____ *6. Other (specify). _____*
- _____
- _____

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. State below the specific details of what the judge did that you think constitutes misconduct or indicates disability. (Please type or print legibly.)

[illegible]

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET(S) IF NEEDED.

2. When and where did this happen?

Date:_____ **Time:**_____ **Location:**_____

Date:_____ **Time:**_____ **Location:**_____

3. If your complaint arises out of a court case, please answer these questions:

a) What is the name and number of the case?

Case name:_____ **Case No:**_____

b) What kind of case is it?

_____ *criminal* _____ *small claims* _____ *civil* _____ *probate*
_____ *domestic relations* _____ *other (specify)* _____

c) How are you interested in the case?

_____ *plaintiff / petitioner* _____ *defendant / respondent* _____ *none*
_____ *attorney for* _____ _____ *witness for* _____
_____ *family member of* _____ _____ *other (specify)* _____

d) If you were represented by an attorney(s) in this matter at the time of judge's conduct, please identify the attorney(s):

Name:_____ **Name:**_____

Address:_____ **Address:**_____

Phone:() _____ **Phone:**() _____

e) Identify any other attorney(s) who represented any other party in the case:

Name: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____ **Address:** _____

Phone: _____ **Phone:** _____

Represented: _____ **Represented:** _____

4. List documents you have attached that help support your complaint that the judge has

engaged in misconduct or has a disability:

5. List documents that are not attached but will be needed by the Commission to support your complaint and may help in the Commission's investigation:

6. Identify, if possible, any other witnesses to the judge's conduct: (example: reporters, bailiffs, clerks, court reporters, law enforcement officers, or other attorneys, plaintiffs, defendants or witnesses that were present at the time).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

NOTE: STATE LAW PROVIDES THAT THE JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE & DISABILITY COMMISSION'S PROCEEDINGS ON THIS REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

I request that the above complaint, supported by the Statement of Facts, be investigated by the Judicial Discipline & Disability Commission and that appropriate action be taken.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Daytime () _____ **Evening ()** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____